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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
BRITISH BIRDS.

THE
NATURAL HISTORY
O F
B R I T I S H B I R D S ;

O R , A

SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING
B I R D S
WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY :

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE
S Y S T E M A N A T U R Æ
O F
L I N N Æ U S :

WITH

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,
EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST
AND MOST ESTEEMED

E N G L I S H O R N I T H O L O G I S T S ;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

F I G U R E S ,

DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

BY E. DONOVAN.

VOL. X.

L O N D O N :

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PLATE CCXXI.

ANAS SPONSA.

SUMMER DUCK, *female and young.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Crest pendent, double, varied with green, blue and white, *male.*

Lef's : body brown, beneath dirty white, varied with brown : and triangular white spots : *female.*

ANAS SPONSA : crista dependente dupli viridi, cæruleo alboque varia mas.

Femina minor : corpus fuscum subtus fordiste album fusco varium, maculis triquetris pallidis.

*Gmel. Syst. Nat. 1. p. 539**.—*Lath. Ind. Orn. n. 871. 97.*

* *Femina minor*, pectoris maculis magis obsoletis *Gmel. 65.*

PLATE CCXXI.

ANAS SPONSA. *Linn. Syft. 1. p. 207. 43.*

ANAS AESTIVA. *Briff. 6. p. 351. 11. t. 32. f. 2. Id. 8vo. 11. p. 455.*

Beau Canard huppé. *Buff. ix. p. 245.—Pl. Enl. 980, 981.*

SUMMER DUCK. *Cateb. Carol. 1. t. 97.*

Edw. t. 101.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 6. p. 546. 85.

The male of this very elegant species of the Duck tribe appeared in the first Plate of the Volume preceding the present. It was there observed that the bird was introduced into the *British Fauna* upon the authority of the Rev. Thomas Rackett, F.L.S. the species having to his knowledge been found some years ago in a wild state in Dorsetshire.

We now present figures of the female and the young, from a very pleasing group of this interesting web-footed family bred in England, and have thus completed the pictorial elucidation of this particular species.

The female is rather smaller than the male bird, and is also somewhat different in the tints of plumage, besides being destitute of that flowing pendent crest so very conspicuous in the male bird. Length about seventeen inches.



PLATE CCXXII.

ANAS CANADENSIS.

CANADA GOOSE.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind-one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous : head and neck black : chin and throat white.

ANAS CANADENSIS : cinerea, capite colloque nigris, genis gulaque albis. *Linn. Syst. Nat. 1. p. 198. 14.—Gmel. Linn. Syst. 514. 14.—Phil. Transf. 62. p. 414. 46.*

Anser canadensis sylvestris. *Briff. av. 6. p. 272. n. 4. t. 26.*

L'Oie à cravate. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des. Ois. 9. p. 82.*

CANADA GOOSE. *Will. (Angl.) p. 361. t. 70.*

Cateb. Carol. 1. t. 92.

Sloane Jam. 2. p. 323. n. 6.

Edw. Av. t. 151.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. 2. p. 450. n. 14.

PLATE CCXXII.

This species is larger than the common Goose, its weight about nine or ten pounds, and the length forty fix inches.

It is chiefly in the northern parts of America that these birds abound, and especially in Canada: they extend during the summer season as far as Greenland, to the northward, and southward in the winter to the British Isles. As a naturalized species it is observed still further to the south, being reared and bred freely in France as well as England. The flesh of the young birds is eaten, and their feathers are held in some esteem. According to Dr. Latham, on the Great Canal at Versailles hundreds are seen mixing with the swans with the greatest cordiality, and the same at Chantilly; and in England likewise, they are thought a great ornament to the pieces of water in gentlemen's pleasure grounds. They are very familiar.

About Hudson's Bay this useful species breeds in considerable numbers, though the greater portion of them retire yet more northerly for the purposes of incubation. Their first appearance in the bay is from about the middle of April to the middle of May, when the inhabitants wait for them with expectation, being one of the chief articles of their food, and many years kill to the amount of three or four thousand of them: these they salt and barrel for use. But those birds which they kill in their return from the north, which happens in August, September, and October, they keep fresh for a winter store, in the same manner as they preserve other wild fowl during the winter season; that is by putting them, unplucked of their feathers, into large holes dug in the earth, which they slightly cover with mould, and close up the whole with ice and snow; and such is the severity of the winter season, in that climate, that with this precaution merely, they may be easily kept fresh for months.

We

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We may readily conceive that the capture of these birds is an object of the utmost consequence to the Canadians, when we are informed that they distinguish the period of their first arrival in spring by the name of *Goose month*; and that they purposely prepare for that season rows of huts made of boughs, at the distance of a musket shot from each other, in those situations where the flights of geese are expected to pass. Here the Indians lie in ambush, and as the geese fly over they mimic their noise so well as to entice the geese within the reach of gunshot, where each of the Indians being armed with two guns, fire both with all possible expedition, and they are thus enabled to kill a considerable number of them; some good marksmen it is asserted have, in this manner, killed two hundred in one day. The Indians call them *Apiftikih*.



PLATE CCXXIII.

ANAS CLYPEATA, *fem.*

SHOVELER, *female.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

End of the bill dilated, rounded, with an incurved nail.

ANAS CLYPEATA : rostri extremo dilato rotundato, ungue incurvo.

Linn. Fn. Suec. 119.—*It. Goth.* 167.—*Gmel.*

Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 518. 19.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 856. 60.

ANAS CLYPEATA. *Scop. Ann. I. N° 70.*

Brun. N° 67, 68, 69.

Borowjk. Nat. 111. p. 12. 5.

Anas platyrhynchos altera. *Raii Syn. p. 143. A. 9.*

Will. p. 283. Mas.

Anas

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- Anas platyrynchos.* *Raii Syn.* p. 144. 13.—*Will.* p. 283.—**xv.**—
Id. 284. **xvi.** (*Femina.*)
- Anas virescens.* *Marf. Dan.* v. p. 120. *t.* 58.
- Avis latirostra.* *Klein. Av.* p. 134. 20.
- Souchet.* *Buff.* ix. p. 191.—*Pl. Enl.* 971, 972.
- Loeffelente.* *Bloch. Schr. der. Berl. Naturf. Fr.* 111. p. 373. **17.**
t. 7. *f.* 2.
- SHOVELER.** (*Will. Angl.*) *p.* 370. **15.** *male.*—*Id.* 371. **16,** **17.**
female.
Albin I. *t.* 97, 98.
Cateſb. Car. I. *t.* 96.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 6. *p.* 509. 55.
-

The two sexes of the Shoveler Duck are materially dissimilar in appearance, and differ a little in point of size: the head and neck of the male bird is violet green, that of the female brown and speckled with fuscous; and the breast of the former white with the belly chesnut, and the vent white; the female is also rather smaller than the male bird. The length of the male is twenty one inches, and the weight twenty two ounces.

It appears that the English name of Shoveler has been given to this bird, in allusion to the very peculiar structure of the bill: this is large, broad, and flattish, and may be not inaptly compared, in its general appearance, to the spatulous portion of a shovel, and to this it may be added, that the bird employs it much in the manner of a scoop, and with singular dexterity in catching its food. This consists of

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of the minor tribes of fresh water animals, as fish and vermes, and insects of the aquatic kind, which latter it takes with facility as they glide over the surface of the water : the fresh water shrimp in particular is a favourite article of food.

The Shoveler Duck, although an accurately known and well authenticated species, is not considered as a common bird. Willoughby mentions one that was found at Crowland, in Lincolnshire; Dr. Latham once received a specimen from the London markets, and where also we have sometimes seen it. The species is not supposed to breed in England.

Buffon speaks of their coming into France in February : and observes that some remain there during the summer, and depart in September. It is said to lay ten or twelve eggs, of a rufous colour upon a bed of rushes, and in the same places as the common Teal.



PLATE CCXXIV.

PODICEPS RUBRICOLLIS, *fem?*

RED THROATED GREBE, *female?*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, slender, sharp pointed: nostrils linear: lore bare of feathers: tongue subbifid: body depressed: no tail: legs four-toed: shank compressed, and beset with a double series of ferrations behind: toes lobate.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Somewhat crested: fuscous: chin, cheeks, and region of the ears cinereous: neck beneath, and breast ferruginous red, abdomen and secondary quill feathers white.

PODICEPS RUBRICOLLIS: subcristatus fuscus, gula genis regioneque aurium cinerascentibus, collo subtus pectoreque ferrugineo-rubris, abdomine remigibusque secundariis albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* p. 783. 6.

PLATE CCXXIV.

COLYMBUS RUBRICOLLIS: capite lœvi, genis, gula, remigibus fe-
cundariis et abdomine albis, jugulo ferrugineo.
Gmel. Syst. Nat. I. p. 592.

COLYMBUS SUBCRISTATUS. *Jacq. Vog. p. 37. t. 18.*
Gmel. Syst. I. p. 590.

COLYMBUS GRISEUS. *Faun Helvet.—Schæf. Et. Orn. t. 29.*

Le Grebe à joues grises. Jourgris. *Buff. VIII. p. 241.—Pl. Enl.*
931.

RED NECKED GREBE. *Lath. Syn. V. p. 288. 7.*
Id. Suppl. p. 69.
Arct. Zool. II. p. 499. C.
Id. Sup. p. 69.

In an early part of the present work* we gave a plate of the male sex of this very scarce and singular bird, from the specimen originally in the collection of Dr. J. Latham, and which afterwards came into our own possession. The figure which we now present to the attention of the reader is presumed to be that of the female: there is some difference in the general appearance, which will be best perceived on a comparison of the two plates; to which however it will be proper to add that the present bird is rather smaller than the former.

This bird is of such considerable rarity in every country where it has been observed, that some erroneous conclusions have evidently arisen respecting it. There are writers who consider it as a variety

* Plate 6. Vol. I.

only

PLATE CCXXIV.

only of another species, and others who have described it as a non-descript, without having duly ascertained that it had been previously described. It is indeed obvious that the new species *Subcrißatus* of Jacquin, and which on the authority of that author has found a place in the Gmelinian *Systema Naturæ*, is no other than a variety of *Rubricollis* (also described in the last-mentioned work.) It appears likewise to be confounded as a bird allied to *Colymbus Urinator* by one writer; while another denominates it as a new species *Griseus*. And, lastly, we may add that a variety of it, β of *Latham* seems to constitute another distinct species in the work of *Gmelin*, under the specific name of *Parotis*; if this conclusion be correct, it is obvious the varieties of *Rubricollis* form no less than three different species in the Gmelinian System.

Length about seventeen inches. Found in Northern Europe as far as the arctic regions.

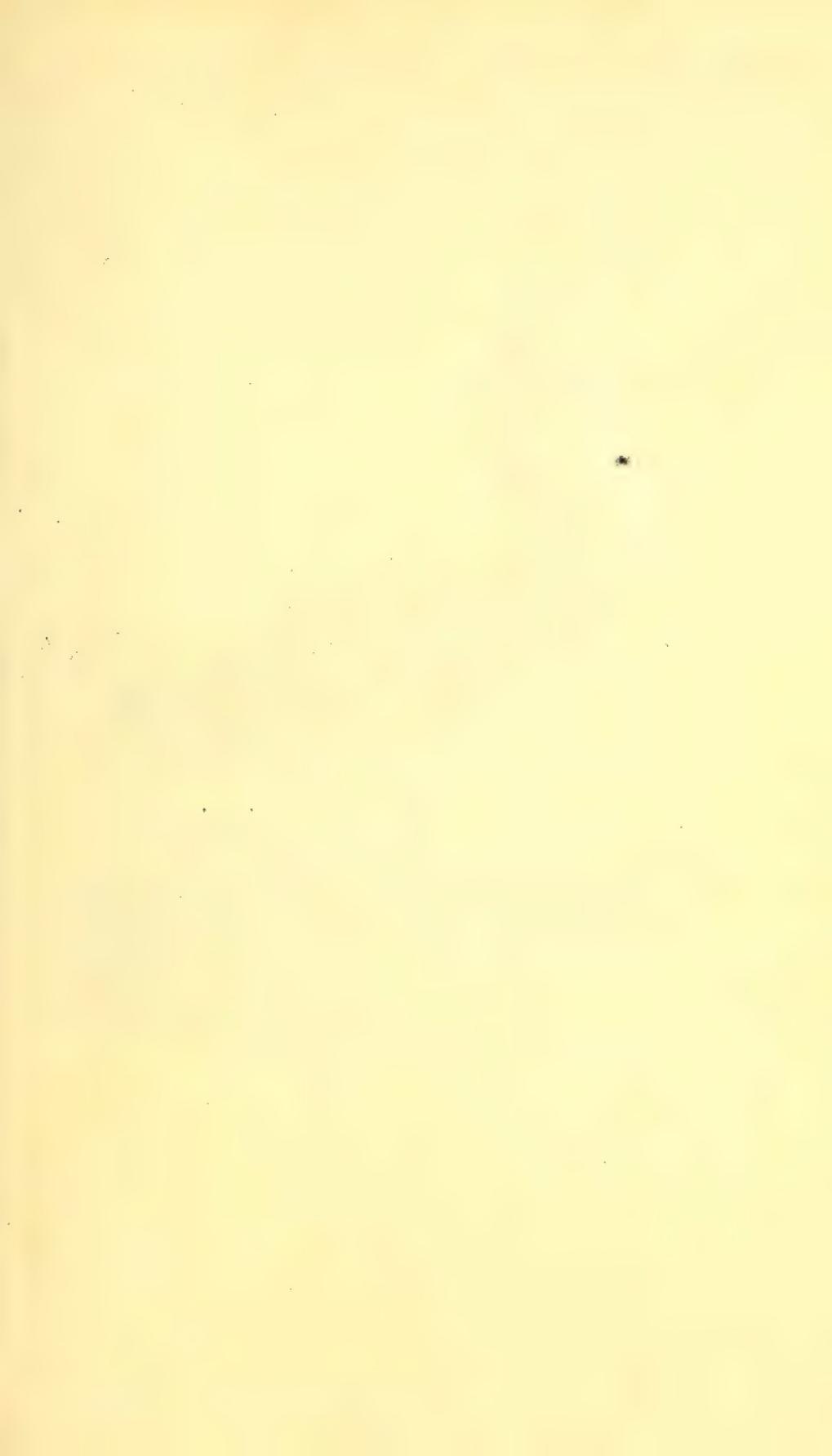




PLATE CCXXV.

ANAS STREPERA, *mas.*

GADWALL, *male.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed, obtuse: three fore-toes connected, the hind-one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wing-spot rufous, black and white.

ANAS STREPERA: speculo alarum rufo nigro albo. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 21.—*Gmel. Syst.* 520. 20.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 859. 69.
Borowjk. Nat. 111. p. 12. 6.
Klein. Av. p. 132. 6.
Cet. uc Sard. p. 325.

AN

PLATE CCXXV.

ANAS STREPERA. *Gesn. Av.* 121.

Aldr. Orn. 3. *p.* 234.

Brif. Av. 6. *p.* 339. 8. *t.* 33. *f.* I.

Klein. Av. *p.* 132. 6.

Schnarrente. *Frisch. Av.* *f.* 168.

GADWALL or GRAY, *Brit. Zool.* 2. *n.* 288,

Arct. Zool. 2. *p.* 575. L.

Ray. Av. I. *p.* 145. A. 2.

Will. Orn. *p.* 374. *t.* 72.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 111. 2. *p.* 515. *n.* 61.

The female Gadwall is already figured in Plate CCXV. of this work; the present figure is that of the male bird.

The Gadwall is an elegant bird about the ordinary size of the Wigeon, and is in particular distinguished by the chaste variety of tints and markings on its plumage, that of the male bird especially. The female is rather more obscure in colour, and is in particular destitute of those elegant scallops, or semi-circular dark lines which appear conspicuously elegant on the neck and breast of the male bird.

This species is found in England only during the winter months, when the severity of the season compels them to retire southward; their habitation in the summer being northward as far as Sweden, Russia, and Siberia: in the first of which it is known to breed.

PLATE CCXXV.

Like the rest of this tribe, the haunts of this bird are the fens and marshes, where it resides among the rushes. It is an excellent diver, and as it feeds only in the morning and evening it is not often shot. In some parts of England it is known by the local name of the Sea Pheasant.



PLATE CCXXVI.

ANAS ALBEOLA.

SPIRIT, OR SPECTRE DUCK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: tongue fringed and obtuse: three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

White: back and wings black: head and neck shining, silky blue: hind head white.

ANAS ALBEOLA: alba, dorso remigibusque nigris, capite colloque cærulefcente fericeo nitente, occipite albeola. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 866. 86.

ANAS ALBEOLA: *Linn. Syft. I. p. 199.* 18.

Phil. Transf. LXII. p. 416. 18.

Gmel. Syft. I. p. 517.

PLATE CCXXVI.

Sarcelle blanche et noire, ou la Religieuse. *Buff.* ix. p. 284.—

Pl. Enl. 948.

Little Black and White Duck. *Edw. t.* 100.

SPIRIT DUCK, SPECTRE DUCK. *Arct. Zool.* 11. N°. 487.—*Lath.*

Gen. Syn. vi. 533. 75.

Very rare in Britain.

Our specimen is rather smaller than the species is usually described, the length of our bird being only thirteen inches; while its ordinary length according to some authors is about fifteen inches. There can, however, be no distrust respecting the identity of the species, nor is there any doubt of our example being of the male sex.

The female is somewhat less than the male bird, and the prevailing colour of the plumage brown. The species is chiefly an inhabitant of the Arctic regions.



PLATE CCXXVII.

TURDUS TORQUATUS, *fem.*

RING OUZEL, or ROCK OUZEL, *female.*

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill, straightish: the upper mandible a little bending and notched near the point: nostrils naked, or half covered with a small membrane: mouth ciliated with a few bristles at the corners: tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Blackish, collar white, bill yellowish.

TURDUS TORQUATUS: nigricans, torque albo, rostro flavescens.

Fn. Suec. 221.

Scop. Ann. 1. p. 198.

MERULA TORQUATA. *Gesn. Av.* 607.

Aldr. Orn. 2. p. 620. *f.* 621. 622.

Briß. Av. 2. p. 235. *n.* 12.

MERULA

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MERULA CONGENER. *Raj. Av.* p. 67. n. 12.

Will. Orn. p. 195.

Merle à plastron blanc. *Buff. Hist. Nat. des Ois.* 3. p. 340. t. 31.

—*Pl. Enl.* n. 516.

RING OUZEL or AMSEL. *Ray. Av.* p. 65. n. 2.

Will. Orn. p. 194.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 11. I. p. 46. n. 49.

Length eleven inches. The present figure is that of the female, which differs so materially from the male, that we were induced to think it would be considered as an acceptable addition to that of the male bird. The latter will be found in the Third Volume, Plate LXI.

These birds are found chiefly in high and mountainous situations.



PLATE CCXXVIII.

ANAS CYGNUS.

WILD SWAN.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill semicylindrical, black : cere yellow : body white.

ANAS CYGNUS: rostro semicylindrico atro, cera flava, corpore albo.

Linn. Fn. Suec. 107.—*It. Westgoth.* 143.—

Scop. Ann. I. n. 66.—*Kramer el. p. 338.*—

Georg. it. p. 165.

CYGNUS FERUS. *Briss. Av. 6. p. 292. n. 12. t. 18.*—*Bell. Av.*

30. a.

Gesn. Av. 371. t. 372.

Aldr. Orn. 3. p. 10. t. 8.

Raj. Av. p. 136. A. 2.

Cygnæ

PLATE CCXXVIII.

Cygne sauvage. *Buff.* ix. p. 3.—*Pl. Enl.* 913.

WILD SWAN. *Will. (Angl.)* p. 356. t. 69.

Brit. Zool. 11. N° 264.

Phil. Transf. LVI. t. x. p. 215. f. I. 2.

WHISTLING SWAN. *Arct. Zool.* 11. N° 469.—*Fl. Scot. I.* N° 204.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* VI. p. 433.—*Id. Supp.* p. 272.

The wild and tame swan are considered by the best informed Ornithologists as two distinct species : the former is found only in a state of uncultivated nature, having never been yet reduced to the bondage of domestication, while the latter, fostered and protected by the hand of man, has been rendered subservient, if not useful, and thus repaid in an ample manner the pains bestowed upon its cultivation .

From a similarity of names, and the ideas we associate in general to the appellatives of wild and tame, it might be readily concluded that the tame swan must be the domesticated offspring of the former ; but this is not the case : though nearly allied, they are obviously dissimilar, and offer characters that we can scarcely hesitate to consider as specifically distinct.

In the first place, it will be observed, that the wild swan is smaller than the tame kind : nor does this arise from the effect of domestication merely, for both the species are found in a state of wildness in the northern part of Europe, America, and Asia ; and in all those parts are known with sufficient accuracy to dispel doubt in this particular.

PLATE CCXXVIII.

In the construction of the bill there is a further difference, the base at the forehead being smooth and entirely destitute of the callosity or knob which we at once perceive upon that part in the tame or cultivated swan.

And besides this there is yet another very principal distinction, the tame swan being mute, or at least the sound which it emits being nothing more than a hissing noise, like that of the goose; while the wild swan, on the contrary, has a loud and piercing cry, which has been compared to that of a whistle, and this it can exert with such effect, that it is affirmed it may be distinguished when a flight of wild swans is passing overhead in the aerial regions, at such a prodigious elevation from the earth, as to be invisible to the naked eye.

It is from this last mentioned circumstance that the wild swan has obtained the more expressive epithet of the whistling swan, and the other has been denominated the mute swan.

The latter mentioned difference is alone sufficient to justify the conclusion of the two birds being specifically different. This dissimilarity in the voice arises it has been long since ascertained, from the anatomical conformation of the wind-pipe; and which in the whistling swan is altogether singular. The pipe enters the chest at first a little way only, and is then reflected into the form of a trumpet, after which it again enters, and then dividing into two branches proceeds to join the lungs. In the mute swan the wind-pipe enters at once into the lungs, and hence there can be little doubt that the remarkable difference in the sounds they emit arises from this difference in the structure.

The whistling swan is about five feet in length, the mute swan when

PLATE CCXXVIII.

full grown about six feet. A material distinction of the whistling swan consists also in the colour of the bill as well as form; it is about three inches long, and from the base to the middle pale yellow, the other half black, and the legs are black, inclining sometimes to reddish. Like the mute swan the whistling kind exhibits a transition of colour, from deep cinereous brown to pure white, as it proceeds through the different stages of its growth. Our present figure is designed to exhibit one of these transitions, the drawing being taken from a very fine specimen of the bird, and which had attained its full and perfect size without having yet assumed the whiteness of the older birds. Its appearance when the plumage has become entirely white may be easily conceived from that of the mute swan, delineated at the conclusion of the present Volume *.

The wild or whistling swan is of the gregarious kind, associating together in flocks of eight or ten in number; it is in such flocks that these birds usually visit the northern parts of Britain during the winter: unless, however, in seasons of particular severity, they are never seen more southerly with us than the Scottish Isles, and then very rarely in flocks of more than five or six in number. In Iceland they associate in larger flocks, and appear in still greater numbers towards the northward, where they breed, as in Lapland, the deserts of Tartary and Siberia as far as Kamtschatka. A few breed in the Western Isles. Von Troil informs us, that they also breed in Iceland, and that the greater part of the young brood stay there the whole year, frequenting the lakes in summer, and in the winter removing to the sea shore. Their habits are the same in America, the lakes to the southward abounding with them during the summer, in the winter they appear upon the sea

* Plate CCXXIV.

PLATE CCXXVIII.

coast. It appears to be a vagarious bird, spreading in small flocks about the Caspian Sea, the Euxine Sea, Greece, and Egypt, though they are never known to pass southward beyond the equator.

They appear about Hudson's Bay in company with others of the goose tribe, about the end of May : they lay four eggs, and hatch in July. The eggs as well as the young birds are esteemed very palatable food ; and the skins dried are worn by the Indians with the feathers and down attached, the larger feathers being plucked to form the diadems of their chiefs, or to weave into cloaks and other articles of cloathing.



PLATE CCXXIX.

LARUS CATARACTES.

SKUA GULL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, sharp edged, a little hooked at the top and without teeth lower mandible gibbous below the point: nostrils linear, broader on the fore part and placed in the middle of the bill.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Greyish; quill and tail feathers white at the base; tail somewhat equal.

LARUS CATARACTES: griseus, remigibusque basi albis, canda subæquali. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 603. 11.—*Linn. Syst. I.* p. 226. 11.

Lath. Ind. Orn. 818. 12.

Catarractes et Cataracta, *Raii. Syn.* p. 128.

Catarractes

PLATE CCXXIX.

Catarractes noster. *A.* 6.—*Id.* 129. 7.

Will. p. 265.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 348. 349. t. 67.—

Sibbald Scot. pars 2. I. 111. *p. 20. t. 14. 2.*

Catharacta Skua, *Brun.* N°. 125.—*Mull.* N°. 167.

Skua Hoyeri. *Clus. exot.* 369.

Larus fuscus. *Bris.* 6. *p. 165. 4.—Id. Svo.* 11. *p. 405.*

Le Goéland brun. *Buff.* viii. *p. 408.*

Brown Gull. *Albin.* 11. *t. 85.*

Catarractes or Cornish Gannet. *Raj. Av.* *p. 129. n. 7.—Will. Orn.*
p. 349. t. 67.

SKUA GULL. *Brit. Zool.* 2. *n. 243.—Arct. Zool.* 2. *p. 531. A.—*
Lath. Gen. Syn. vi. p. 385. 14.

The Skua Gull is one of the most fierce and voracious species of the Gull tribe: the general colour cinereous brown, varied with rusty, and fuscous longitudinal spots: the bill and talons strong, and the whole aspect singularly ferocious and gloomy.

This bird is of a large size and very powerful: it feeds on fish, and on the smaller tribes of birds that frequent watery situations where it lives and breeds. Length two feet.

It is an inhabitant of Europe, Asia, and America: in Britain the species is considered rare, being a local kind and confined chiefly to Cornwall, and the Hebrides.



PLATE CCXXX.

ALCA ALLE, *fem.*

LITTLE AUK, *female.*

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill toothless, short, compressed, convex, often transversely furrowed; lower mandible gibbous near the base: nostrils linear: legs mostly three toed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill smooth, conic; beneath, and tips of the hind quill feathers white: legs black.

ALCA ALLE: rostro lævi conico, abdomine toto fubtus remigumque posticarum apicibus albas, pedibus nigris. *Linn.*
Fn. Suec. 142.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 554. 5.—
Lath. Ind. Orn. 795. 10.

Alca Alle. *Faun. Groenl.* N°. 54.

URIA

P L A T E CCXXX.

Uria Minor. *Briſſ. vi. p. 73. 2.—Id. 8vo. 11. p. 378.*

Plautus Columbarius, *Klein. Av. p. 146. I.*

Mergulus melano leucus rostro acuto brevi, *Raii. Syn. p. 125. A. 5.*

Will. p. 261. t. 59.

Le petit Guillemot. *Buff. ix. p. 354.—Pl. Enl. 917.*

Small black and white Diver. *Will. (Angl.) p. 343.*

Greenland Dove. *Albin. I. t. 85.*

LITTLE AUK. *Brit. Zool. 2. N^o. 233. t. 82.—Arct. Zool. 2. t.*

429.—*Lath. Syn. V. p. 327. 11.*

This is the smallest species of the Auk tribe found upon the British coasts, and is also one of the least common. In point of size it scarcely exceeds the Ouzel; the length is nine inches. The present figure is that of the female; which is very scarce.

Alca Alle is an inhabitant of the icy regions of the north of Europe, and America, from whence it migrates to the south in the winter seasons; and in its return northward in the ensuing summer a few remain and breed in the north of Britain.

These birds have been found occasionally with the plumage wholly white.

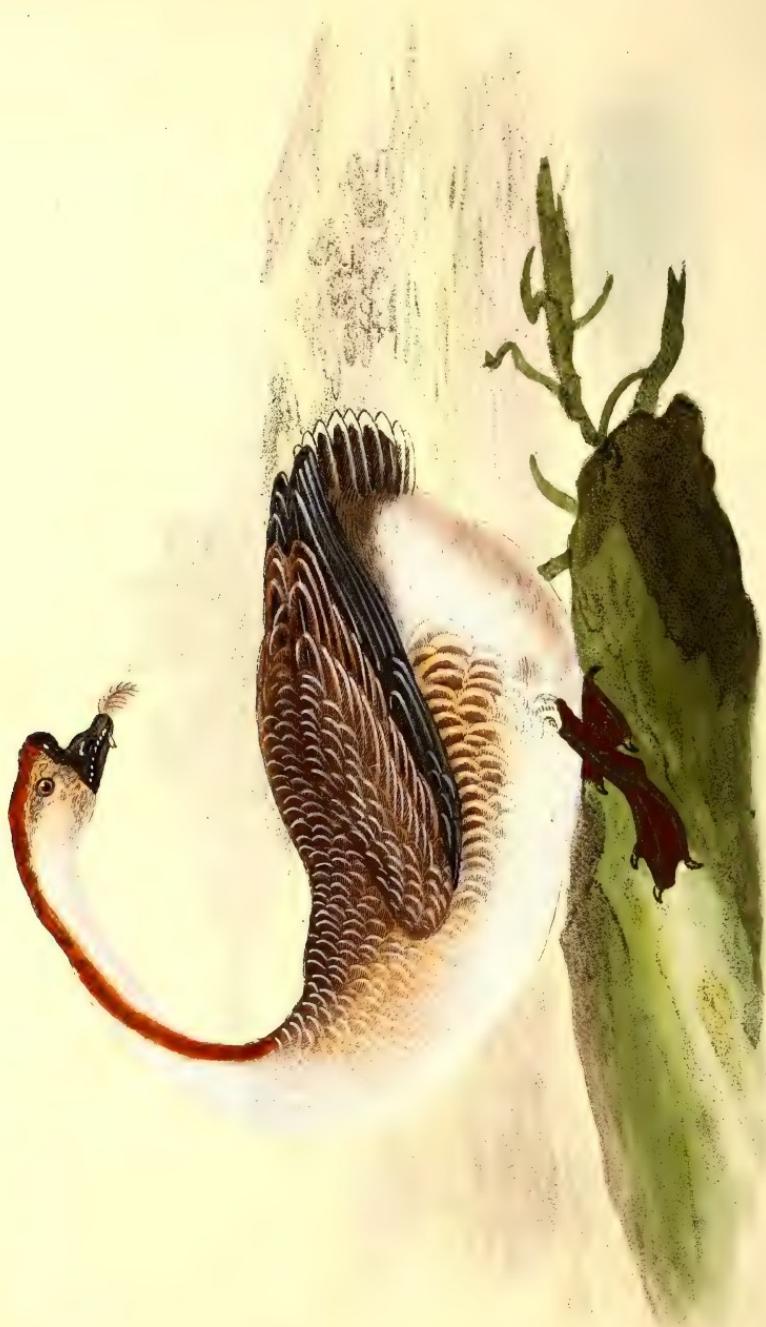


PLATE CCXXXI.

ANAS CYGNOIDES.

CHINESE GOOSE.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill semi-cylindrical ; cere gibbous ; eye-lids tumid.

ANAS CYGNOIDES : rostro semi cylindrico, cere gibbosa palpebris tumidis. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 108.

Gmel. Linn. Syft. Nat. 502. 2.

Anser Guineensis. *Briss.* vi. p. 280. 7.—*Id. 8vo.* 11. p. 485.

L'Oie de Guinée. *Buff.* ix. p. 72. t. 3.—*Pl. Ent.* 347.

Spanish Goose. *Albin. Av. I.* t. 91.

Swan Goose. *Raj. Av.* p. 138. n. 8.

Will. Orn. p. 360. t. 71.

PLATE CCXXXI.

Chinese Goose. *Auct. Zool. 2. p. 571. E.*

Lath. Gen. Syn. 111. 2. p. 447. n. 12.

This handsome species of Goose has been long since introduced, and naturalized with success in Britain. It does not appear to have been ascertained with any degree of accuracy whence the parent stock of this useful bird was derived, nor can any inference be drawn from the local names which various authors have assigned to it.

Linnaeus calls it the Southern Goose : Brisson and Buffon the Goose of Guinea : Albin the Spanish Goose : Brown the West Indian, or Jamaica Goose ; and Pennant the Chinese Goose.

That the species is found in every one of the above-named parts of the world we have little doubt, and this may offer some apology for the diversity of local names which the earlier writers have assigned to it. It is indeed to be confessed that this diversity of names had better been avoided, as it is scarcely possible but that some confusion may arise occasionally from this source, as to the identity of the species ; and we must allow that it is always objectionable to indulge in the fantastic introduction of new names in the science of Natural History where others already applied are well known and sufficiently established to be understood. We believe upon the best information that the species abounds in a state of nature in the eastern parts of Siberia, where it frequents lakes and rivers, and that it occasionally migrates from thence to other countries of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and

hence

P L A T E CCXXXI.

hence the species might be perhaps distinguished with more propriety by the appellation of the Siberian Goose than any it bears at present.

In point of size the present species exceeds that of the ordinary Goose, and approaches nearer to the Swan; the length being more than three feet: the annexed figure we trust in this case as in most others, will be found at least sufficiently accurate to supersede the necessity of entering into any minute detail respecting the colours and markings by which the plumage is distinguished.





PLATE CCXXXII.

ANAS BERNICLA.

BRENT GOOSE,

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed and obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Fuscous : head, neck, and breast black : collar white.

ANAS BERNICLA : fusca, capite, collo pectoreque nigris, collari albo. *Linn. Fn. Suec.* 115.—*Gmel.* 513. 13.—*Scop. Ann. I.* N°. 84.—*Brun.* N°. 52.—*Frisch.* t. 156.—*Faun. Groenl.* N°. 41.—*Borowjk. Nat.* 111. p. 11. 3.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 844.

BRENTA, *Bris.* vi. p. 304. 16. t. 31.—*Id.* 8vo. ii. p. 442.—*Raj.* *Syn.* p. 130. 8.—*Will.* p. 275. t. 69.—*Klein.* *Av.* p. 130. 8.

Le

PLATE CCXXXII.

Le Cravant. *Buff.* ix. p. 87.—*Pl. Enl.* 342.

BRENT GOOSE, BRAND GOOSE. *Brit. Zool.* ii. N°. 270.—

Albin. I. t. 93.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 360.

Lath. Gen. Syn. vi. p. 467. 27.

Length, about twenty-one inches: the prevailing colour of the head, neck, and upper part black in the male, in the female brownish, and in the younger birds, the collar of white spots more or less conspicuous, and sometimes wholly wanting. The lower part of the breast, scapular and wing coverts ash colour, clouded with a darker shade: tail dusky: legs black.

These birds inhabit the north of Europe and America, where they frequent the islands, and along the coasts, but are never observed to fly inland: towards winter they proceed southward. They visit the Scottish isles in great numbers: at Shetland are known by the name of **HORRA Geese**, from being found in the Sound of Horra. In the winter time they occasionally occur in some plenty about the fens and marshes of Lincolnshire, where they are brought to the London markets. The flesh is considered palatable, unless when it partakes of a fishy taste, which happens when the birds have subsisted for some time upon the finny inhabitants of the water: at other times its ordinary food consists of plants of various kinds, berries, and even grass: worms, and small testaceous animals which occur in the marshes.

In the description of the Bernacle Goose, *Anas Erythropus* (Plate CCXIV. of the present work,) we were led to notice the confusion that

PLATE CCXXXII.

prevails among the Synonyms of the Bernacle Goose, the Brent Goose, and the White-fronted Goose, all three being occasionally confounded through the misapplication of the Synonyms, and each in its turn supposed to be the bird known among the credulous writers of the last age under the name of the Tree Goose. As the explanation there afforded will apply equally to the present bird as to *Anas Erythropo*, it may not be deemed impoper to introduce an extract from it in this place, referring at the same time for a more full detail to the description of Plate CCXIV. in the preceding volume. We there observed "The result of this confusion is, that, we find a Bernacle Goose which is not a Bernacle, but the Linnæan *Erythrops*: the Brent Goose, which is not the Bernacle, confounded under the triivial name of *Bernicla*; and some of the Synonyms of the true Bernacle, applied to the White-fronted Goose, *Anas Albifrons*."

" It will tend materially to dispel this seeming confusion by bearing in mind, that the species *Erythrops* of Linnæus is the true Bernacle Goose, but which is better characterized by the specific definition of Dr. Latham, than by the Linnæan character, ' *cinerea fronte alba*' *Faun. Suec.* At the same time recollecting, that notwithstanding the similiarity of names, *Anas Bernicla* of Linnæus is the Brent and not the Bernacle Goose." *Vide* Plate CCXIV.



PLATE CCXXXIII.

FALCO APIVORUS, *var.*

HONEY BUZZARD, *var.*

ACCIPITRES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill hooked, the base covered with a cere: head covered with close set feathers: tongue bifid.

* *Legs naked, and less.*

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cere black: legs half naked and yellow: head cinereous: tail banded with cinereous, tip white.

FALCO APIVORUS: cera nigra: pedibus seminudis flavis, capite cinereo, caudæ fascia cinerea, apice albo. *Linn.*
Syst. 1. p. 130.—*Faun. Suec.* N° 65.—*Gmel.*
Syst. 1. p. 267.—*Raii Syn.* p. 16. 2.—*Will.*
p. 39. t. 3.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 25. N° 52.

PLATE CCXXXIII.

Pojana. *Zinnan*. p. 84. t. 13. f. 75.

HONEY BUZZARD. *Br. Zool.* 1. p. 85. 6.—*Arct. Zool.* 11. p. 224.

I.—*Albin*. 1. t. 2.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 78. t. 3.—

Lath. Syn. 1. p. 52.—*Id. Sup.* p. 14.

In the early part of this work we have already introduced a figure of the Honey Buzzard*, from a specimen originally in the collection of Dr. Latham; and the only one as that experienced Ornithologist informs us, with all his assiduity he was ever able to procure in a recent state; nor could he even ascertain the sex. And with respect to the bird before us we have to acknowledge ourselves under the same uncertainty: it is introduced as an extraordinary variety, the plumage being throughout of a much darker hue than in the former bird.

Our present subject is rather smaller than the bird we have before delineated, and may present a transition in the growth of this particular species; but this is uncertain, and we are rather inclined to think it an adult variety than a younger bird.

That these birds vary in appearance may be readily collected from authors; in the specimen figured by Albin, the tail was uniformly of one colour, without any bars, Linnaeus describes it as having only one cinereous band, and the tip white, and the British Zoology speaks of

* Plate XXXI. Vol. II.

PLATE CCXXXIII.

three dusky bars upon the tail; sometimes there are only two, and occasionally the white at the tips is wanting.

Length from twenty inches to two feet: the species feed on reptiles, mice, and other small animals, and is especially fond of bees, whence its name of *Apivorus*.



PLATE CCXXXIV.

PLATAEA LEUCORODIA.

WHITE SPOONBILL.

GRALLÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, thin; the tip dilated, orbicular, flat: nostrils small, at the base of the bill: tongue short, pointed: feet four-toed, semi-palmate.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Body white: chin black: hind head subcrested.

PLATAEA LEUCORODIA: corpore albo: gula nigra, occipite subcristato. *Linn. Faun. Suec.* 160.—*Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 613. 1.—*Scop. Ann.* 1. N° 115.—*Brun. N° 46.*—*Sepp. Vog. t.* 88, 89.—*Klein. Av. p. 126. I.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 667. *I.*

Platea, sive Pelecanus. *Aldr.*—*Raii Syn. p. 102. I.*—*Will. p. 212. t. 52.*—*Brijf. v. p. 352. I.*

La Spatule. *Buff. vii. p. 448. t. 24.*—*Pl. Enl. 405.*

Garza, o Becarivale. *Zinnan. Nov. p. 111. t. 20. f. 99.*

SPOON BILL, or Pelican. *Albin 11. t. 66.*

White

PLATE CCXXXIV.

WHITE SPOONBILL. *Brit. Zool. App. t. 9.—Arct. Zool. 11.
p. 441. A.—Id. Sup. p. 66.—Lath. Gen. Syn. v.
p. 13. I.—Pultney Catalogue, Dorset. p. 13.*

A flock of these birds migrated into the marshes near Yarmouth, in Norfolk, in the month of April, 1774, and upon the authority of this circumstance the species first obtained a place in the British Fauna. They were observed by Mr. Joseph Sparshall of Yarmouth, who transmitted a minute account of one of the birds to Mr. Pennant, the particulars of which are inserted in the Appendix to his *British Zoology*.

Whether this species had been previously ascertained as a British bird seems rather doubtful. Ray informs us only that in his time they bred annually in a wood at Sevenhuys, not remote from Leyden, to which Mr. Pennant adds, that the wood is now destroyed; and that those birds, with several others that formerly frequented the country, are at present become very rare. Albin give a figure of the bird which he saw in the possession of Mrs. Legrand, but it is sufficiently plain from the tenor of his observations, he considered it as a foreign bird. “In a certain grove (says Albin) at a village, called Sevenhuys, not far from Leyden in Holland, they build and breed yearly in great numbers, on the tops of the high trees, where are also Herns and Night Ravens,” &c. When the young ones are almost fledged *, those

* This observation confirms the conjecture of Dr. Latham, who imagines the young birds (which are considered as an article of food) are taken before they can fly, “for Willoughby,” he observes, “talks of their being shaken out of the nest with a crook fastened to the end of a pole.” *Vide Orn. p. 289.*

that

PLATE CCXXXIV.

that farm the grove, with hooks on the tops of long poles pull them down.—The bird is called by the Low Dutch, *Leplaer*, that is *Spoonbill*."

We have been informed that in very severe winters this bird is sometimes observed in Britain ; one of the best authenticated instances of this, occurred about twenty years ago, when a single bird which had been taken with other wild fowl in the marshes, it is believed of Lincolnshire, was brought to London and exposed for sale in Leaden-hall Market. We are, indeed, assured that the example in our own possession, the one from which the present figure is taken, was captured in the Hackney marshes about eleven years ago, but we are unwilling to speak with too much confidence as our communicant is no more, and every means of ascertaining the particulars has faded with him. A very intelligent Naturalist, the late Dr. Pultney, in his " Catalogue of Dorsetshire," has introduced the species among the feathered tribes of that County. And, lastly, Mr. Montagu records the capture of two specimens within a few miles of Kingsbridge, Devonshire, one was shot in November, 1804, the other on the sixteenth of March, 1807, and it is remarked that both were killed with the common Heron.

The length of this bird is two feet eight or nine inches when at the full growth ; the bill large, long and flat, with the end spatulous, or in the shape of a spoon ; whence its name of Spoonbill. The colour of the bill is various, being in some birds black, in others brown, and upon being closely viewed, appears rather of a yellow colour, varied and clouded with olive, and thickly speckled with darker, and the legs are varied in a manner somewhat similar, though at the first glance they

PLATE CCXXXIV.

they appear dark, and uniformly of one colour. The plumage is white throughout, or in the younger birds the quill feathers are tipped with black.

The species is an inhabitant of various parts of Europe, being found as far north as Iceland, and to the south, according to Kolben, even to the Cape of Good Hope. They, preferring as it appears the more temperate climates, frequent the entrance of rivers about the sea coasts, where they build in lofty trees ; the female lays three or four eggs the size of those of a hen, and of a white colour speckled with red. They are said to be very noisy in the breeding season, and to feed on frogs, snakes, and fish, testaceous animals, and plants : grafts, weeds, and the undigested remains of the common stickleback have been found in the stomach on dissection.

The flesh is of a remarkably deep colour, but is reputed favourly, and without any fishy taste. The latter circumstance we should however conclude, must depend upon the nature of its food for sometime previous to its capture, for when it has been constrained to subsist for any considerable period upon fish it is scarcely to be doubted that the flesh will imbibe that flavour.



PLATE CCXXXV.

CUCULUS CANORUS, *jun.*

COMMON CUCKOW, *young.*

PICÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill smooth, a little curved: nostrils surrounded by a small rim: tongue sagittate or arrow shaped, short, and pointed: feet formed for climbing.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cinereous; beneath whitish, transversely streaked with brown: tail rounded, blackish, and dotted with white.

Young. Body above fuscous, the margin of the feathers white: beneath banded with white and fuscous.

CUCULUS CANORUS: *cinereus, subitus albidus fusco transversim striatus, cauda rotundata nigricante albo punctata.*

Lath. Ind. Orn. 207. I.

P L A T E CCXXXV.

Cuculus Canorus: cauda rotundata nigricante albo-punctata. *Linn.*

Faun. Suec. 96.—*Scop. Ann. I.* p. 44. n. 48.

Nozem, Nederl. Vogel. t. 61.

Il Cuculo, *Olin uc.* t. p. 38.

Coucou, *Buff. vi.* p. 305.—*Pl. Enl.* 811.

The plumage of the Cuckow in its early state of growth is so very different from that of the adult bird, that we are entirely persuaded no one unversed in the transitions it is known to undergo, would be easily induced to believe it the same bird. Neither can it escape the observation of the accurate Ornithologist that some errors have arisen on this subject in the volumes of the early naturalists before its history was fully understood. In this stage of growth the common Cuckow is assuredly the red and rufous Cuckow of certain ancient writers; and even some among the better authors of our own times are not wholly free from this or similar errors.

In the 29th Plate of the Second Volume of this work, the adult bird has appeared already; and the younger bird exhibiting the rufous variegated plumage, is the subject chosen for our present Plate.



PLATE CCXXXVI.

ANAS ANSER.

G R E Y - L A G G O O S E .

A N S E R E S .

G E N E R I C C H A R A C T E R .

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth: the tongue fringed obtuse: three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

S P E C I F I C C H A R A C T E R

A N D

S Y N O N Y M S .

Bill semicylindrical, body above cinereous, beneath paler; neck striated.

ANAS ANSER: (*Ferus*) rostro semicylindrico corpore supra cinereo subtus pallidiore, collo striato. *Fn. Suec.* 114.—*Linn. Syst. I.* p. 197. 9.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst.* 510. 9.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 841. 26.—*Schaaff. El. t.* 20.—*Raii. Syn.* p. 136. A. 4.—138. A. 3.

Anser Sylvestris, *Briss.* vi. p. 265. 2.—*Id. 8vo.* ii. p. 432.

PLATE CCXXXVI.

Oie-sauvage, *Buff.* ix. p. 30. t. 2.—*Pl. Enl.* 985.

Uæs Araki, *Forsk. Faun. Arab.* p. 3. N°. 6.

Oca Sylvatica, *Zinnan. Uov.* p. 104. t. 17. f. 91.

Wild Goose, *Albin. I.* t. 90.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 358.

Grey-lag Goose, *Lath. Gen. Syn.* vi. p. 459. 31.

The wild, or grey-lag Goose is the undomesticated state of the tame or common Goose of our poultry yards: a species that inhabits the fens of England, and is supposed to remain with us during the whole year. It is at least well known that great numbers breed in the fens of Cambridge and Lincolnshire, where they remain throughout the season when all the birds that migrate northward are found in higher latitudes.

These birds are tolerably prolific, producing seven or eight young at a brood; numbers are caught during the winter season in the decoys, many are killed for the supply of the markets, and others put among the tame Geese where they are easily rendered tame, and become part of the domestic stock. In a wild state they associate in flocks, and in their aerial flights are observed to go forward in a straight line, or more frequently in a cuneated group or wedge, one point foremost; the flock, whether in a straight line or wedge, being preceded by a leader.

The wild Goose is an inhabitant of various parts of the world, but appears in other countries to be more of the migratory kind than with us: and is sometimes met with in flocks of three or four hundred. It occurs in Iceland, and on the continent from Lapland to the Cape of Good

PLATE CCXXXVI.

Good Hope. Kolben speaks of it as common in Arabia, Forschal in Persia, and Kämpfer in China and Japan: it is also found in America, from Hudson's Bay to South Carolina; and was observed likewise by our navigators in some of the islands of the South Seas.

The wild Goose is rather less than the tame Goose, and weighs about ten pounds, while in a state of tameness it frequently attains to the weight of fifteen or twenty pounds, and often more: the length is about two feet nine inches, and the breadth five feet. The bird we have chosen for the annexed figure is rather above the usual standard, measuring from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail, twenty-nine inches and a half, and was considered, in respect to plumage, a very perfect bird.



PLATE CCXXXVII.

LARUS PARASITICUS.

ARCTIC GULL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, sharp edged, a little hooked at the tip, and without teeth; lower mandible gibbous below the point: nostrils linear, broader on the fore part and placed in the middle of the bill.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Above black: collar, breast, and abdomen, white: two middle tail feathers very long.

LARUS PARASITICUS: supra niger, collo pectore et abdomine albis, retricibus duabus intermediis longissimis. *Lath.*
Ind. Orn. 819. 15.

LARUUS PARASITICUS: retricibus duabus intermediis longissimis.
Linn. Faun. Suec. 156.—*Gmel.* 601. 10.

Sterna

PLATE CCXXXVII.

Sterna rectricibus maximis nigris. *It. Wgoth.* 182.—*Act Stockh.*
1753. p. 291.

Catharacta parasitica. *Brun. N.* 127, 128.—*Faun. Groen.* № 68.
Larus subfuscus major, &c. *Brown Jam.* 482.

Stercorarius longicaudus. *Brif. vi.* p. 153. 3. (*male*).—*Stercorarius*
Brif. vi. p. 150. (*female*).

Sterna rectricibus maximis nigris. *It. Wgoth.* 182.—*Act. Holm.*
1753. p. 291.

L'Abbe à longue queue. *Buff. viii.* p. 445.—*Pl. Enl.* 762.

ARCTIC BIRDS. *Edw.* t. 148. 149.

ARCTIC GULL. *Br. Zool.* 11. № 245. t. 87.—*Arct. Zool.* 11.
n. 459.—*Lath. Gen. Syn.* vi. p. 389. 16. t. 99.

This is one of the rarest species of the Gull tribe in Britain; it is found to inhabit the Western Isles. The male is distinguished by the length of the two middle tail feathers: these middle tail feathers in the female are rather longest, but by no means so conspicuously different from the rest as in the male bird.

This is not the strongest or most powerful of the Gull tribe found on our coast, being much inferior to the Skua or the Wagel, and not in point of size exceeding some others, but it is fierce and rapacious, and does not hesitate to attack the other Gulls with impunity. Too indolent to pursue and catch its own prey, it lies in wait upon the rocks, watching with apparent unconcern those birds swimming and diving in the shallows of the water, or turning up the sands in quest of food, and when by these means, any one of them has obtained a prize suited to his inclination, he immediately darts down upon them

and

PLATE CCXXXVII.

and seizes it; or if the Gull attempts to fly, he follows in pursuit, and persecutes him till he drops his prey, to escape his fury.

The length of this bird is from twenty one inches to about two feet.



PLATE CCXXXVIII.

NUMIDA MELEAGRIS.

PINTADO, or GUINEA HEN.

GALLINÆ.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill strong, short, the base covered with a carunculate cere receiving the nostrils: head horned, with a compressed coloured callus: tail short bending down: body speckled.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Caruncles at the gape double: gular fold none.

NUMIDA MELEAGRIS: caruncula ad rictum gemina, plica gulari nulla. *Gmel. Linn. Syst. 744. I.*

Phasianus vertice calloso, temporibus carunculatis. *Linn. Syst. Nat. x. p. 158.*

Meleagris. *Briß. Av. I. p. 176. n. I. t. 18.*

Gallina vertice corneo. *Haffelq. it. 274.*

PLATE CCXXXVIII.

NUMIDA MELEAGRIS nigra maculis rotundatis albis, remigibus extus albo transversim striatis, vertice corneo.

Lath. Ind. Orn. 621. *I.*

GALLUS ET GALLINA GUINEENSIS. *Raii Syn.* p. 52. 8.—*Id.* p. 182. 17.
—*Will.* p. 115. t. 26, 27.

Peintade. *Buff.* II. p. 163. t. 4.—*Pl. Ent.* 108.

GUINEA PINTADO. *Will. (Angl.)* p. 162.
Lath. Gen. Syn. IV. p. 685. *I.*—*Id. Sup.* p. 204.

These birds, originally from Africa, are now naturalized, and become abundant throughout civilized Europe: and in America, as well as the adjacent islands. It is highly prolific, and the flesh, that of the younger birds especially, in much esteem.

The ordinary size of this bird exceeds that of the common Cock, the length twenty-three inches: the female is distinguished from the male by having the wattles of a smaller size, and of a red colour, while in the male they incline to blue.

The female lays a number of eggs in the season: they are smaller than that of a hen, and of a more rounded form, the colour reddish white obscurely freckled with darker, and may be hatched under the Common Hen. It is observed of these birds, by Dr. Latham, that they are “fond of having a large range, but if there is much shelter, the hen will often secrete a nest and appear on a sudden with more than twenty young ones at her heels.” And he further remarks, that “the species is very clamorous the day through, having a creaking harsh

PLATE CCXXXVIII.

harsh kind of note, somewhat like a door turning on its rusty hinges, or an ungreased axle-tree ; and when at roost is often so easily disturbed as to hinder the rest of the family the whole night through, from its noise."

There are varieties of this bird, the breast being sometimes white ; and sometimes the whole plumage white.



PLATE CCXXXIX.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA var. C. TURBITA.

TURBIT PIGEON.

PASERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill straight, descending towards the tip: nostrils oblong, half covered with a soft tumid membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Colours various, generally cinereous, rump white: band on the wing, and tip of the tail black.

Var λ feathers of the breast recurvate.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA, *cinerea uropygio albo, alarum fascia, caudaeque apice nigricante.* *Lin. Fn. Suec. n. 207.*
λ C. pennis in pectore recurvatis. *Linn. Syft. Nat. XII. I. p. 280.—Gmel. Syft. Nat. 769. 2.*

COLUMBA

PLATE CCXXXIX.

COLUMBA DOMESTICA: minor vericolor, dorso inferiore albo.—

ꝝ C. pennis in pectore recuvis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.*

592. 2.

Briſſ. Av. I. p. 75. F.

Friſch. Av. t. 147.

Pigeon à Cravate. *Buff. Hift. Nat. des. oif. 2. 513. t. 23.*

This is a pleasing and very curious variety of the domestic Pigeon, the colour of the plumage generally cinereous, and white : tail at the end, and bars on the wing black : eyelids tumid, bill and legs red ; head and neck white, and the sides of the breast a fine glossy green, passing backwards in a somewhat semilunated form, and uniting below the nape of the neck.

But the chief character by which this variety is distinguished is the remarkable projecting ruff of feathers on the breast, which descends from below the throat in a longitudinal direction : these feathers open or divide in a perpendicular line, forming two distinct tufts, one of which bends outwards to the right, and the other to the left, or in the more simple language of science, these feathers are recurvate. Our specimen is about the same size as the common variety of the domestic Pigeon.



PLATE CCXL.

FRINGILLA VIRENS.

GREEN FINCH.

PASSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, straight and pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Olive, beneath flesh colour: wing coverts white, in the middle black: wings and tail black.

FRINGILLA VIRENS: olivacea, subtus incarnata tetricibus alarum albis, medio migris, remigibus rectricibusque nigris.

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS. β fem. Linn. Syſt. I. p. 318. 3.—Gmel. Syſt. I. p. 901.

Fringilla alis et cauda nigris. Le Pinçon à Ailes et queue noires, Briff. 111. p. 153. A.—Id. 3vo. I p. 348.—Buff. iv. p. 121. I.

P L A T E CCXL.

Chaffinch var. A. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 258. 10.

Fringilla cœlebs β. An feminæ varietas? *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 437. 12.

We are not entirely convinced that we are proceeding with sufficient caution in separating the Greenfinch from the Chaffinch, as two distinct species. Such a separation is contrary to the opinions of very able writers upon the subject of Ornithology, but notwithstanding this we are much inclined to believe that future observations may justify the accuracy of our conclusion, or at least afford a presumptive evidence in its favour.

Every practical Ornithologist will admit of this distinction between the two birds, and be prepared to point out the difference that prevails between the two species, and the sexes of each; and hence arises an obvious difficulty in endeavouring to determine whence this difference of opinion between the practical and scientific Ornithologist has originated. The naturalist affirms that the Greenfinch is a variety of the female Chaffinch, but in reply to this, the practical observer points out the two sexes of each kind. It requires, therefore, more than ordinary caution in attempting to combine the two opinions, and we must finally conclude that the Greenfinch is a mere variety of the Chaffinch, or reject the opinions of the scientific naturalist as not fully authorized by the facts of nature.

That the varieties of the Chaffinch are numerous, as indeed are those of many common birds will be conceded, but when as it appears
that

PLATE CCXL.

that we are enabled to determine from the external aspect of the birds, as well as from dissection that both the sexes of the Greenfinch are distinctly known, we can scarcely hesitate to think they must be specifically different.

We have been long since in possession of what we consider as the two sexes of each of these birds, the Chaffinch and the Greenfinch, and have no idea in our mind that they can be the same. We are aware that this was also the persuasion of the late Mr. Green, a very intelligent observer of the smaller tribes of our common English birds, and who was inclined and able to bestow more attention upon this curious subject of inquiry than most other collectors;—he was fully satisfied they are specifically distinct: we have the two sexes of both birds very beautifully set up by his hands.

It is very well known that the Greenbird and the Chaffinch occasionally associate: it is also known that they migrate separately in flocks. The Greenfinch, for example, retires from Sweden and Holland in autumn, while the Chaffinch remains, and passes the winter alone, and is again visited by their supposed mates in spring. With us in Britain, both the Chaffinch and the Greenfinch remain throughout the year, and yet sometimes flocks of the Greenfinch are seen without a single Chaffinch, and again the latter observed in abundance without any intermixture of the former, precisely as was before observed of their migrations upon the Continent. With these suggestions and facts before us, we can scarcely avoid believing the Greenfinch and Chaffinch to be specifically distinct: we are not inclined to speak with too implicit confidence, since it must assuredly remain for

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future observation to determine the point with any positive degree of certainty *.

The Greenfinch is one of the most abundant species of the smaller tribes of birds in this country.

* Dr. Latham appears to be the only author inclined to our opinion, if we may collect this from the doubtful manner in which he speaks of our present bird under the specific synonyms of *Fringilla cœlebs*. "An feminæ varietas?" *Ind. Orn.*—"A variety of the female Chaffinch?"

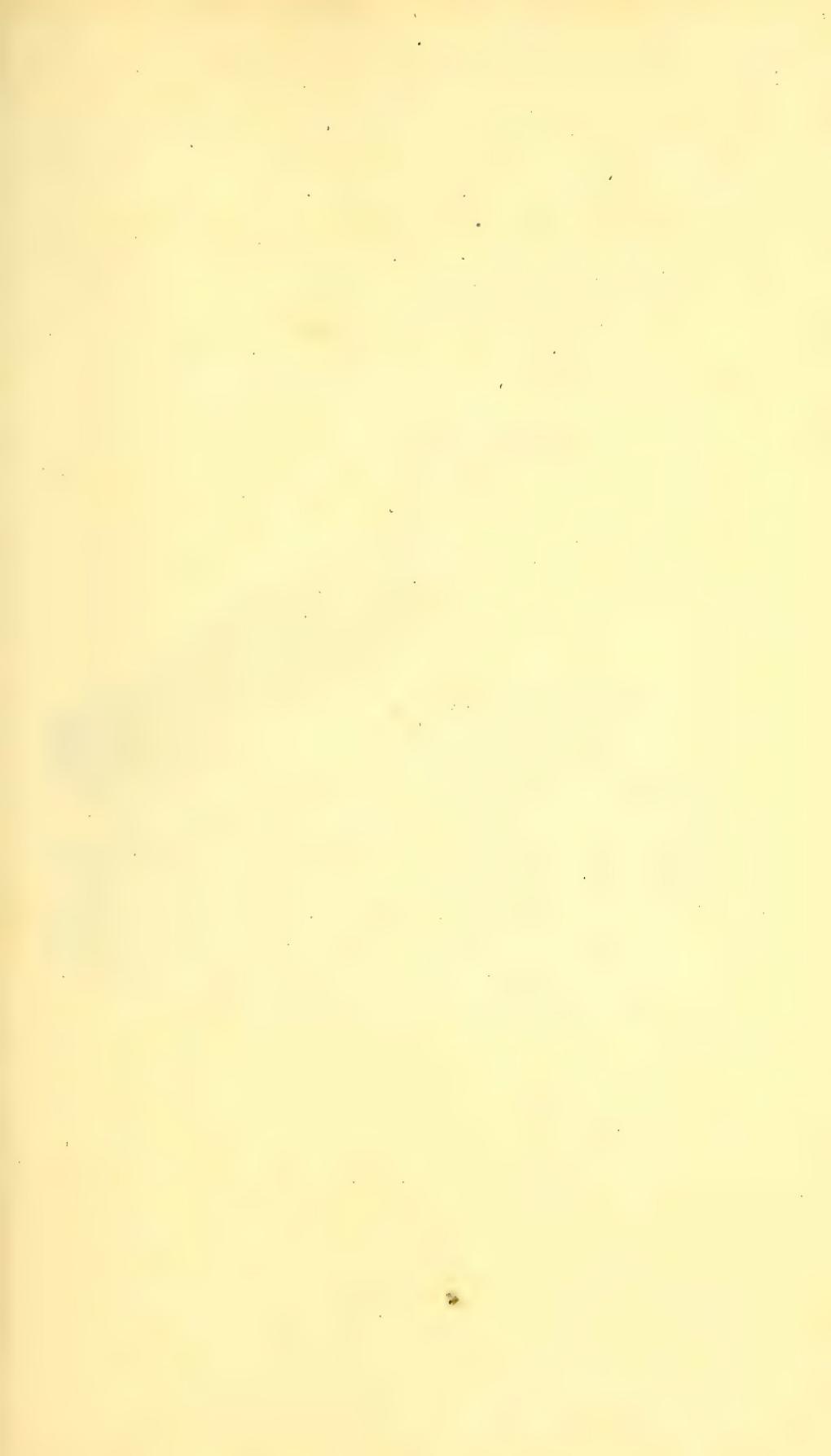




PLATE CCLXI.

PROCELLARIA PUFFINUS.

SHEARWATER PETREL.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill toothless, a little compressed, hooked at the point; mandibles equal: nostrils cylindrical, tubular, truncated, lying on the base of the bill: feet palmated: the back toe pointing downwards, sessile sharp and spur-like.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Body above black: beneath white: legs rufous.

PROCELLARIA PUFFINUS: corpore supra nigro subtus albo, pedibus rufis. *Brünn. Orn. n. 119.—Fabr. Fn. Groenl. n. 56.—Gmel. Synt. Nat. 566. 6.—Lath. Ind. Orn. 824. 11.*

Avis diomedea, Shearwater, Raii Syn. p. 133. I. et. A. 2.—Will. p. 251. Id. (Angl.) p. 332. 334.

Puffinus Anglorum, Raii Syn. 134. A. 4. Will. p. 252.

P L A T E CCXLI.

Le Puffin, *Buff.* ix. p. 321.—*Pl. Enl.* 962.

Manks Puffin, *Edw. t.* 379.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 333.

SHEARWATER PETREL, *Brit. Zool.* 11. № 258.—*Id. fol.* 146. *t.* M.—*Arct. Zool.* 11. № 462.—*Flor. Scot. I.* № 198.—*Lath. Syn.* vi. p. 406. 11.—*Id. Sup.* p. 269.

The Shearwater Petrel is about sixteen inches in length, the prevailing colour of the plumage black above, beneath white.

As a British bird the species is almost entirely confined to the northern sea coasts, particularly to the Calf of Man and the Orknies. As a northern bird the species is known to extend as far as Denmark, Iceland, and Greenland; and it has been besides observed in the Arctic regions, and in the southern seas. Kalm says it is every where common in the Atlantic, from our channel to the coast of America.

Except in the breeding season these birds are chiefly observed out at sea, and not unfrequently at a considerable distance from the land. They frequent the shores in spring, about February, March, and April, but only for a short time at intervals. During their stay on shore, like many other of the sea-birds, they take possession of some rabbit burrows which are either before deserted, or the inmates of which they expel, and there bring up their young. The female Shearwater lays but one egg, which is blunt at each end: the young are taken in the beginning of August in great numbers, killed, salted, and barrelled, and are eaten boiled with potatoes. Some are pickled like the young

of

P L A T E CCXLI.

of the common Puffin. The skins prepared with the feathers on, and also the feathers without the skin, are applied to various useful purposes.

It is observed of these birds, that after the young are hatched, the adult birds are absent during the day time pursuing their usual habits of fishing, but return regularly every evening to feed their young.

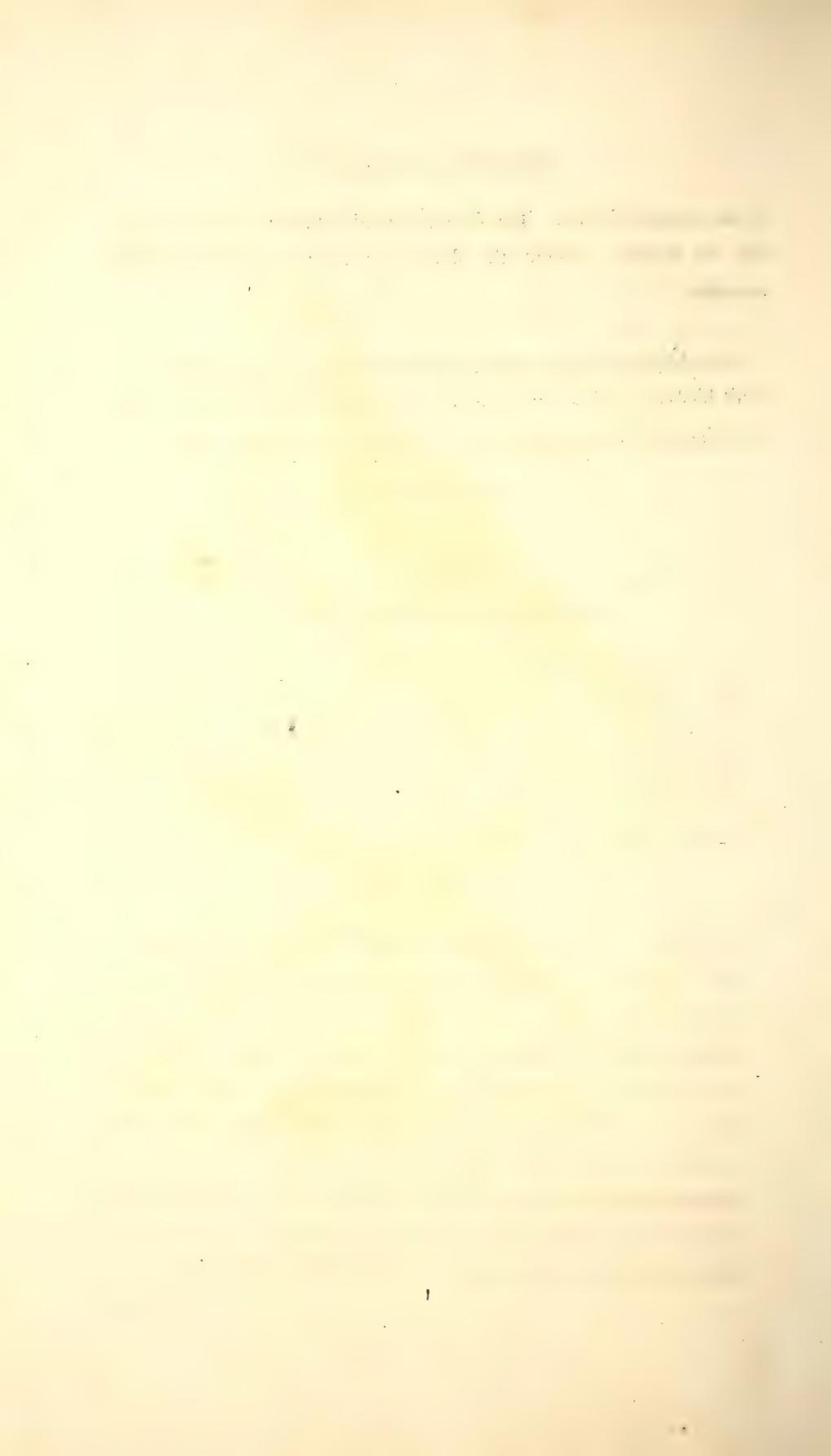




PLATE CCXLII.

FALCO NISUS.

SPARROW HAWK.

ACCIPITRES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill hooked, the base covered with a cere: head covered with close set feathers: tongue bifid.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cere green, legs yellow; abdomen white undulated with grey: tail banded with blackish.

FALCO NISUS: ceré viridi, pedibus flavis, abdomine albo-griseo undulato, cauda fasciis nigricantibus. *Linn.*
Faun. Suec. 68.—*Scop. Ann. I.* p. 17.—*Gmel.*
Linn. Syst. Nat. 280. 31.

Accipiter. *Bris. Orn.* p. 89. n. I.

Accipiter fringillarius. *Gesn. Av.* 51.

Aldr. Orn. I. p. 344. t. 346, 347.

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Bell.

P L A T E CCXLII.

Bell. Av. 19. 6.

Ray Av. 18.—*Will. p.* 51. *t.* 5.—*Klein. Av.*
p. 53. 25.

Nisus striatus sagittatus. *Frisch. t.* 90, 91, 92.

Sperber. *Gunth. Neft. u. Eyer. t.* 6.

Epervier. *Buff. I. p.* 225. *t.* 11.—*Pl. Enl.* 412. 467.

SPARROW HAWK. *Alb. I. t.* 5.—*Id. 111. t.* 4.

Will. (Angl.) p. 86.

Br. Zool. I. N° 62.

Arct. Zool. II. p. 226. iv.

Lath. Gen. Syn. I. p. 99. 85.—*Id. Supp. p.* 26.

A widely diffused species, being a general inhabitant of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and we have little doubt of America also. The length of the male bird is twelve inches, that of the female fourteen or fifteen inches.

This is a fierce and active kind of Hawk, but not very powerful, the bill being small and the legs unlike most of the Hawk tribe, long and slender. It is trained like the rest for the sports of Hawking, but its attacks are confined to the smaller tribes of birds, and as the trivial appellation implies, of the sparrow chiefly.

Among the recorded varieties of this species one β is spotted (*Accipiter maculatus* of *Brij's*) and another γ *lacteus* is entirely of a milky white.



PLATE CCXLIII.

ALCA IMPENNIS.

GREAT AUK.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill toothless, short, compressed, convex, often transversely furrowed; lower mandible gibbous near the base: nostrils linear: legs generally three-toed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill compressed, furrowed: an oval spot each side before the eyes.

ALCA IMPENNIS: rostro compresso ancipiti fulcato, macula ovata utrinque ante oculos. *Linn. Faun. Suec.* n. 140.—*Brünn. Orn.* n. 105.—*Fabr. Fn. Groen.* n. 52.—*Pall. Spic.* 5. p. 2.—*Gmel. Linn. Syst. Nat.* 550. 3.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 791. I.

Alca major. *Briß. Av.* 6. p. 85. n. I. t. 7.—*Id. 8vo.* 11. p. 382.

PLATE CCXLIII.

Penguin. *Raii. Syn. p. 118.*

Will. p. 242. t. 65.—Id. (Angl.) p. 322. t. 65.

Le grand Pingoin. *Buff. ix. p. 393. t. 29.—Pl. Enl. 367.*

GREAT AUK. *Brit. Zool. 11. p. 229. t. 81.—Arct. Zool. 11.*

N^o. 424.—Lath. Syn. v. p. 311. I.

This is the largest species of that singular tribe of aquatic birds which inhabit our rocky coasts, and are known by the names of Auks; and by our fishermen under the more local appellation of "Sea Parrots." The size exceeds that of the common Goose; the length about three feet.

Our figure of this scarce and interesting bird is copied from the well known specimen, originally in the collection of Sir Ashton Lever, and which we obtained by purchase, for our own Museum, at a price not very inconsiderable*, that example being at the time alluded to the only one we believe known. Since that period a few of these birds have been killed in the Orkneys, the exact particulars of which are not, however, within our knowledge. There was formerly a preferred specimen in the collection of that eminent cotemporary collector of Sir Ashton Lever, the late Mr. Tunstall, the fate of which it is no longer possible to ascertain, as that collection was dispersed by public sale, long previous to the dissolution of the Leverian collection; but which, it is believed, was suffered to decay through want of care.

* Ten Guineas at the public hammer.

P L A T E CCXLIII.

Dr. Latham speaks of this specimen: it appeared to him to be a young bird, the oval spot between the bill and the eye being speckled black and white, and the bill itself marked with only a few furrows.

The Great Auk is never seen more southerly in Britain than the Scottish islands; upon some of which it is known to breed, though in very sparing numbers. Dr. Latham observes that this bird is sometimes seen on the Isle of St. Kilda appearing there the beginning of May and retiring in June. It lays one large egg close to the sea mark, six inches long, white irregularly marked with purplish lines, and blotched at the larger end with black or ferruginous spots; and it is said that if the egg be taken away the bird will not lay a second. It is supposed these birds are hatched late in the season, as the young in August are only covered with a grey down.

When these birds leave the Scottish coast, they retire northward to Norway, the Ferroe isles, Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland. They appear to be common in the Arctic regions, where the natives are said to use their skins for garments, and otherwise apply them to purposes of utility and ornament.

The old birds are rarely seen on land: they subsist principally upon fish, in quest of which they usually go out some distance to sea, and being expert divers, shew much facility in the capture of their prey.



PLATE CCXLIV.

ANAS OLOR.

MUTE SWAN.

ANSERES.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, obtuse, the edges divided into lamellate teeth : tongue fringed, obtuse : three fore-toes connected, the hind one solitary.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bill red, with a black fleshy tubercle at the base : body white.

ANAS OLOR : rostro rubro, basi tuberculo carnoso nigro, corpore albo. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 334. 2.

ANAS OLOR : rostro semi-cylindrico atro, cere nigra, corpore albo. *Gmel. Syst. Nat.* 501. 47.

Cygnus Mansuetus. *Raii. Av.* p. 136. A. I.

Anas Cygnus (Mansuetus) *Linn. Syst. I.* p. 194.—*Faun. Suec.* N°. 107. β.

Le Cygne. *Buff. ix. p. 3. t. I.—Pl. Engl.* 913.

Tame

PLATE CCXLIV.

Tame Swan, *Albin.* 111. t. 96.—*Br. Zool.* 11. N°. 265. t. 60.

MUTE SWAN, *Arct. Zool.* 11. N°. 470.

Lath. Syn. vi. p. 456. 2.

The Mute Swan occurs in a wild state in Siberia and Russia, whence it migrates southerly in the winter; in a state of domestication it is very generally diffused over Europe and Asia.—In England the Swan is under the protection of penal laws and statutes, and hence there are few of our principal rivers entirely destitute of this noble bird,

“The pride of silver streams.”

The Swan was formerly held in high esteem for the table, and the Cygnets or young Swans are yet in some request in England. In Russia the older birds are in as great repute for the luxurious repast as they were formerly in England, where no great feast or public entertainment was thought complete without at least one of them upon the table. The flesh of the Swan is of a deep red, and of a rich and full flavour, without any ill taste even in the adult state: we have eaten of it and consider it not amiss.

These birds feed on fish, aquatic insects, plants of various kinds that grow in the water, as the *nymphaea*, &c. and also grass. Though nothing can surpass the graceful dignity of its motions when sailing upon the scarcely rippled surface of the lake, it walks with an awkward gait, and appears to peculiar disadvantage when on the land.

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Swans build their nests in the high grafts near the water, laying from six to eight eggs which are of a large size and whitish colour, and are said to be deposited in succession, one every other day : the females cover the eggs for the space of two months before they hatch. They are seen in all their stages of growth upon the river Thames, where they are esteemed royal property, and are under the protection of the corporation of the city of London. At certain appointed periods the companies are rowed up in the city barges in great state to inspect the brood, a ceremony that has obtained the name of *Swan-hopping*. It need be scarcely added, that stealing the eggs of the Swan is felony.

When it has attained its full growth the Swan is about five feet in length, or rather more, the weight twenty-five pounds : the young birds are brown, and do not assume the perfect whiteness of their plumage till they have become of pretty considerable size.

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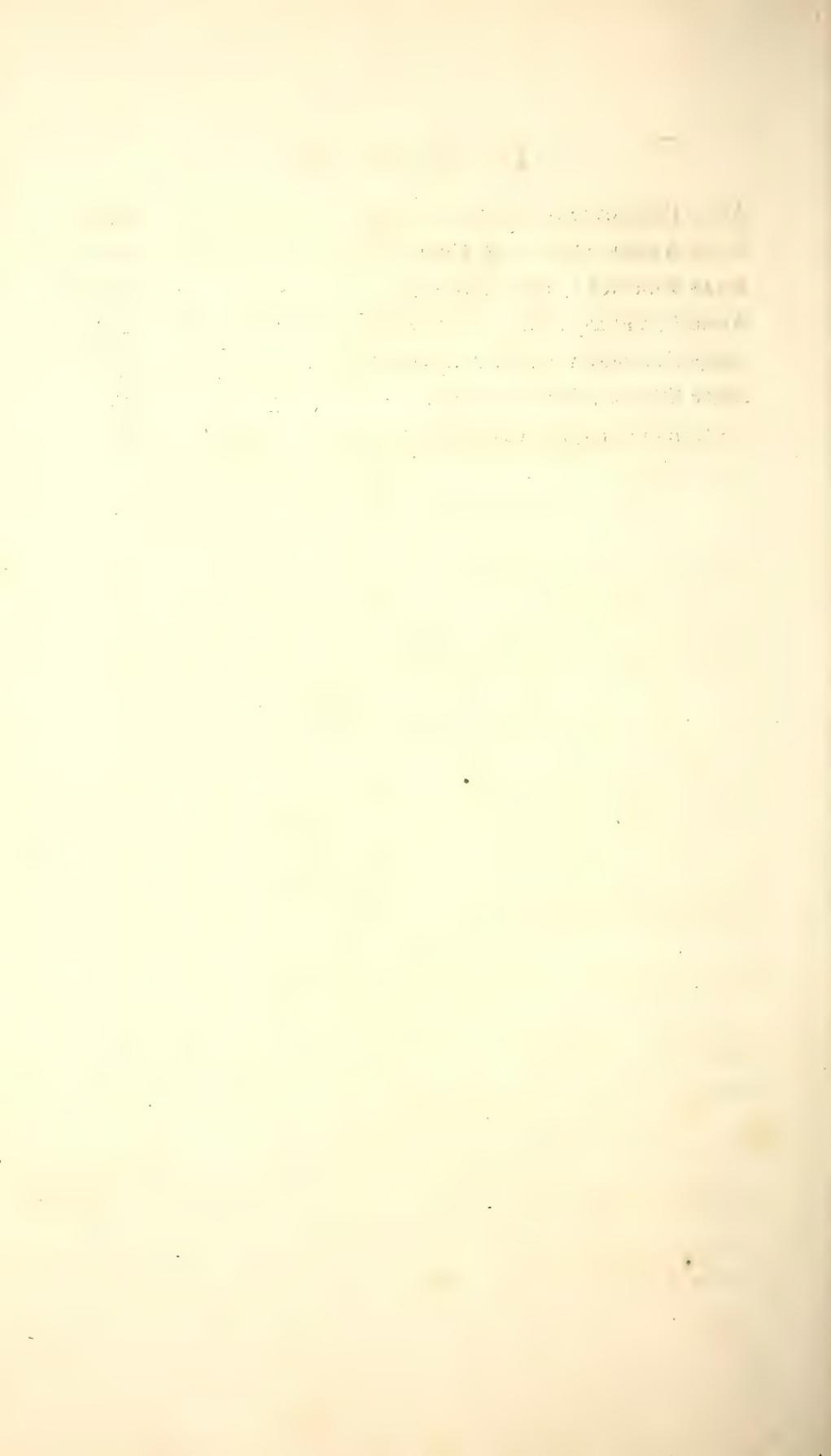
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PELICAN.

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O R D E R V.

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